



STATE OF MINNESOTA  
STATE ETHICAL PRACTICES BOARD

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Approved by the Ethical Practices Board  
September 19, 1980

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ADVISORY OPINION NO. 73

SUMMARY

#73. A corporation may spend money to promote or defeat a ballot question either by registering its own political fund or by contributing to an already registered political fund.

FACTS

You have requested the Board to answer the following questions:

Q) For account keeping and reporting purposes under Chapter 10A, Minnesota Statutes, how are contributions to political funds for statewide ballot questions to be handled in the following cases:

1) Individual contributions to a political fund

A) Individual contributions made to funds organized solely to promote or defeat ballot questions are to be handled in the same way as are individual contributions to any other political committee or fund covered by the provisions of Chapter 10A. Individuals who make contributions to political committees and funds are not required to register with the Ethical Practices Board. Chapter 10A.27 limits the amount a principal campaign committee may accept from an individual, political committee or fund. There are no limits on what an individual may give to a non-candidate political committee or fund. The political committees and funds are required to record, to report and disclose individual contributions as specified in 10A.13 and 10A.20.

2) Corporate contributions made to an established political fund

A) According to Chapter 210A.34, subd. 1b:

"A corporation doing business in this state may make contributions or expenditures to promote or defeat a ballot question, to qualify a question for

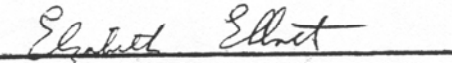
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placement on the ballot unless otherwise prohibited by law, or to express its views on issues of public concern. But no such contribution shall be made to any candidate for nomination, election or appointment to a political office or to any committee organized wholly or partly to promote or defeat such a candidate."

The Board finds that a corporation may spend money to promote or defeat ballot questions either by registering its own political fund or by contributing to an already registered political fund which will itemize that contribution if it is in excess of \$100. Funds accepting money from corporations may not contribute to candidates.

The Board also requests that the legislature interpret Minn. Stat. Chapter 10A.12, subd. 1 as it relates to corporate expenditures to promote or defeat ballot questions.

  
Elizabeth Ebbott, Chairperson  
Minnesota Ethical Practices Board